

Tips to Keep Your Children Safe From Home Fires



Children make up a higher percentage of fire victims than the population overall. In fact, children under 5, along with the elderly, are at the highest risk of house fire deaths. Scalds also are a serious problem among young children. Parents need to be especially careful when there are youngsters in the home.

- ✓ Keep candles where kids can't knock them over. Make sure candles are in a non-tip candle holder before lighting.
- ✓ If you have a holiday tree, keep a watchful eye on children at all times. Children are fascinated by the lights and decorations on the tree.
- ✓ Store matches and lighters up high, out of the reach of young hands.
- ✓ Make sure to have a fire escape plan – and make sure to practice it!
- ✓ Have two alternative routes for escape, and choose a location outside the home where families can meet once they've safely escaped.
- ✓ Make sure your child is able to dial 911 and communicate with the operator as soon as he or she is old enough to do so.
- ✓ Keep kids a safe distance from hot liquids, which are a frequent cause of scalds – especially in the wintertime.

- ✓ Never use deep fat fryers around children.
- ✓ Keep pot handles on the stove pointing to the back. Try not to use the stove's front burners when there are young children near the kitchen.
- ✓ Never leave food cooking on the stove when you leave the kitchen. Turn off the heat until you return.
- ✓ Make sure children never touch a space heater or put anything near it. Young children might not know to remove their hand, even if the heater is extremely hot, and can wind up with very serious scalds.
- ✓ Keep appliance cords, wires, etc., out of the reach of young children.
- ✓ If you have security bars on your windows or doors, make sure there is a release mechanism that works and that everyone in the household knows how to use them.
- ✓ Make sure to have a fire extinguisher in the home, and that any child old enough to learn is taught how to use it.
- ✓ Teach children what to do if they are caught on fire: stop, drop and roll.
- ✓ Get medical help for any burn suffered by a child.

For more information:

California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems: www.caph.org

California State Firefighters' Association: www.csfa.net



CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF
PUBLIC HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS



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